CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

Sub A1

1. A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics; and

transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

sending the transcoded content to the client.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of characteristics includes a content type and a set of client characteristics.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal computer.

6. A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:

receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information; and

processing the content using the transcoder.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises a content type and a set of client characteristics.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

sending the transcoded content to the client.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein the client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal computer.

11. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes as set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request for the content from a client through the communications unit in which the request includes a set of characteristics, select a transcoder from the set of transcoders have a best match to the set of characteristics, and transcode the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus system is a single bus.

13. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

16. A data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics; and

transcoding means for transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

17. The data processing system of claim 16 further comprising:

sending means for sending the transcoded content to the client.

18. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of characteristics includes a content type and a set of client characteristics.

19. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the set of characteristics is a tuple including parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal computer.

21. A data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

selecting means for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information; and

processing means for processing the content using the transcoder.

22. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the identification information comprises a content type and a set of client characteristics.

23. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the identification information comprises a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user.

24. The data processing system of claim 21 further comprising:

sending means for sending the transcoded content to the client.

25. The data processing system of claim 21, wherein the client is one of a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, and a personal computer.

26. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for transcoding content

using a set of transcoders, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;

second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics; and

third instructions for transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content.

27. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request for the content, wherein the request includes identification information for a client originating the request;

second instructions for selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders, wherein the transcoder provides a closest match to the identification information; and

third instructions for processing the content using the transcoder.